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Cuba

Malmierca Speaks on Disarmament, Development

FL270303 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0202 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] At the United Nations, Cuba affirmed the need to break the policy of force practiced by the Government of the United States to achieve military hegemony.

While speaking at the international conference on the relation between disarmament and development, Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca said that the wish of the people is to live in a world free of threats, hunger, and disease. He said that since a disarmament agreement may be signed in Geneva, Switzerland, it is necessary for the international community to initiate a method of using resources that will benefit development. Malmierca repeated proposals made by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro to bring the so-called Third World out of its increasingly deteriorating situation.

The Cuban foreign minister described the accumulation of weapons, especially nuclear weapons, as a Dantean scene.

In reference to the serious situation created by the foreign debt and the need to implement a new global strategy, Malmierca emphasized the importance of designating part of the resources currently spent on weapons to solve this problem. He also criticized the negative attitude taken by the United States by not attending the conference held at the United Nations. He called the United States the protagonist of that true universal drama of the arms race.

Malmierca added that those who benefit from the arms race and struggle for its continued development create obstacles to the just and humane solutions demanded by the people.

U.S. Disarmament Position Termed 'Brutal Blow'

FL272027 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] The United States has just rejected the USSR's proposal that the problems of disarmament and development be discussed in a special meeting of the top leaders of the UN Security Council member-states. This is perhaps the worse political decision made by any U.S. administration in the past few decades, or perhaps in all time.

As the USSR's proposal aptly states, it is time for everyone to understand that by voluntarily or involuntarily leaving the peoples of certain regions, and even of entire continents, in a state of exploitation or misfortune, humanity runs the risk of provoking an explosion no less pernicious than a thermonuclear confrontation.

From this dramatic, but true statement, it is clearly seen that disarmament and development are undoubtedly the cardinal problems of our era. As Commander in Chief Fidel Castro already said when he addressed the UN General Assembly on behalf of the Nonaligned Countries in 1979: There can be no peace without development, nor development without peace.

However, the U.S. rejection of the Soviet proposal surprises one even less than the argument that it invokes as a pretext. According to Washington, quote: The United States is convinced that disarmament in the industrialized world and development in the Third World are not interrelated topics. [no end quotation notation as heard] Could any argument be weaker or more lacking in seriousness? How can anyone say today that military expenditures have nothing to do with development? How can one maintain that the spiralling arms buildup is unrelated to the unprecedented foreign debt of the Third World, which was caused by unequal trade and the increased military budgets of the imperialist states?

Some years ago, Fidel demonstrated with irrefutable data that the enormous expenses for weaponry, the conflicts among the capitalist countries, and the monetary maladjustment had led those countries to decide to alleviate their internal situations at the expense of the vast underdeveloped world.

The U.S. rejection is a brutal blow to the underdeveloped countries and shows opprobrious scorn for the legitimate hopes of hundreds of millions of human beings. It is an attempt to maintain in the world a situation that Fidel graphically described for us in Delhi, India, during the transfer of the presidency of the Nonaligned Countries, when he said: If we were to observe a minute of silence for each child who dies of hunger in the world every day, we would not be able to hail the arrival of the year 2000, because we would still be silent.

Brazil To Be Assisted in Health Field

FL271744 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Report by Marta Valverde from Rio de Janeiro]

[Text] The media here carried headlines yesterday, and today, Wednesday, stating that Cuba will give Brazil assistance in the area of health. The reports state that Brazil will be able to import Cuban technology in order to begin to manufacture melagenine [melagenina], which is used in the treatment of vitiligo, and interferon, for the treatment of cancer.

The information was given by State Secretary of Health Sergio Arauca, at the inauguration on Monday of the Brazil-Cuba Symposium organized by a Brazilian institute for the purpose of promoting technological and research exchanges between the two countries. According to the secretary, this program of cooperation will also permit an exchange of experiences among health professionals, through temporary assignments to the main scientific institutions and hospitals of the two countries.

The Brazil-Cuba Synmposium, which ended in Rio de Janeiro yesterday, and which was attended by Cuban and Brazilian authorities, led among other things, to an agreement under which 1000 Brazilian vitiligo patients will participate in a year-long clinical study to compare the effects of melagenine with those of more traditional medications.

Agriculture Minister Observes Drought in Las Tunas

FL270208 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Agriculture Minister Adolfo Diaz praised the efforts of Las Tunas Province to minimize the affect of the 3-year drought.

After a 2-day inspection tour of that province, Diaz said the drought has created problems that will continue through the next year. For example, the plantain crop will have to be substituted by planting other crops to avoid large deficits of agricultural products. This year's food production plan cannot be met but the vegetable program can be implemented.

The agriculture minister said the cattle situation is complex and he urged continued work to avoid further deterioration among the animals. This requires guaranteeing a supply of water and food.

Environmental Training Discussed in USSR

FL270227 Havana Radio Periodico del Aire in Spanish 2130 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] In accordance with the world strategy developed for the 1990's by the International Congress on Environmental Education and Training, Cuba will increase its work in this area at the higher education level, said (Juan Wong), Cuban delegate to that forum which met in Moscow from 17-21 August.

Despite Cuba's efforts to develop a culture of nature, there are deficiencies in environmental training and education, above all at the university level, said (Wong), who added that during the next 10 years, an environmental dimension class should be introduced in all fields of higher education.

American Association of Lawyers Meet 14 Sept

FL272349 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] The American Association of Lawyers Conference that will meet in Havana from 14-17 September will reinforce Cuba's efforts in the areas of social justice and peace, said (Fremin Torro), Venezuelan secretary to the lawyers association, in Caracas.

(Torro) added that the meeting in Havana will be of additional importance in bringing forth such topics as self-determination of the peoples in view of the increasing threats of greater direct U.S. intervention in Central America.

El Salvador

FMLN-FDR Proposes Meeting for Cease-fire

PA280119 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 2355 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Communique issued by the FMLN General Command and the FDR Executive Committee in El Salvador on 27 August 1987]

[Text] 1. On Friday 14 August, we sent the Salvadoran Government and the Army High Command an official note through mediator Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas in which we proposed to hold the 15 September meeting at the San Salvador nunciature.

In that note we proposed to the government to discuss—on 15 September—the problem of national reconciliation, including an agreement to end hostilities, and the continuation of the dialogue until a political solution for the armed conflict is attained.

2. Although we have not yet received an answer from Engineer Duarte, we want to reiterate our willingness to attend the 15 September meeting to discuss an end to hostilities and attain agreements leading to national reconciliation and the solution of the conflict through dialogue and negotiation.

3. In accordance with that decision, we have made various diplomatic and political efforts to make sure that it will be possible to attain positive results at the meeting.

For that purpose, we asked Msgr Rivera y Damas to meet in Panama or Guatemala to prepare for the dialogue meeting. Similarly, we asked the Vatican if we could use its diplomatic headquarters here in San Salvador to hold the meeting and we asked the Peruvian and Mexican Governments for their support of the meeting. In the next few days, we will meet with various regional governments to obtain more support for the meeting.

4. We recognize although the Central American presidents' agreement is a general commitment made exclusively by the Central American governments, it establishes a favorable, general framework for the search for political solutions to the internal conflicts of each of the Central American countries.

5. The Guatemala agreements represent duties, which were supposedly accepted in good faith by the Central American presidents. The implementation of those agreements demands the recognition of the various characteristics of each country's political processes. Attaining these agreements requires abandoning the idea of establishing nonexistent similarities among each Central American country's conflict.

Therefore, we interpret Engineer Duarte's position as an attitude tending to avoid dialogue in El Salvador by introducing conditions unconnected with the spirit and content of the Guatemala agreement.

6. We, the FDR-FMLN, as forces that represent large sectors of the Salvadoran people, are willing to contribute to the peace process in Central America with our will and capacity to resolve our country's conflict through a dialogue in which all political and social forces that long for a lasting peace and social justice can participate.

7. To create the best possible climate for the 15 September meeting between the FDR-FMLN and the government, we announce our willingness to agree to a nationwide temporary cease-fire between 12-17 September. FDR Executive Committee. FMLN General Command. El Salvador, 27 August 1987.

Guatemala

Nicaraguan Exiles Stage Demonstration

PA271833 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Passages between quotation marks recorded]

[Text] This morning, Nicaraguan exiles held a demonstration at Los Lamentos Square across from the Presidential Palace in Guatemala City. One of the demonstrators explained the reason for this rally:

[Unidentified speaker] "We are asking the Guatemalan Government, specifically President Vinicio Cerezo, to request the release of some political prisoners in Nicaragua. We are asking for the release of Lino Hernandez, president of the Nicaraguan Permanent Human Rights Commission; and Alberto Saborio, president of the Nicaraguan Bar Association and secretary general of the Nicaraguan Conservative Party, who were arbitrarily arrested on 15 August while staging a peaceful demonstration in Managua. We are asking President Cerezo to request the release of Alberto Saborio and Lino Hernandez.

[Reporter] Do you think that the peace document signed by Daniel Ortega and the other Central American presidents was in some way violated by the arrest of these political leaders?

[Speaker] The fact these gentlemen were arrested is proof the Sandinists are violating the document."

Another demonstrator who left Nicaragua because he opposed the Sandinist government said the political prisoners are [words indistinct] Somozist dictatorship.

[Unidentified speaker] "I wish to add something to what has already been said. We want the Guatemalan people and the Central American people to know that Alberto Saborio was an opposition deputy during the Somozist regime. He was in jail during the Somoza period, and he was a staunch supporter of the Sandinist leaders when they were serving jail sentences. I must say the same for Lino Hernandez. But this is the way the FSLN treats the people who supported them when they were behind bars. These were the men who defended them when they were brought before the judge and they always defended the Sandinists who were being persecuted and arrested."

Meanwhile, Guatemalan Foreign Minister Alfonso Cabrera said Guatemala cannot meddle in the domestic affairs of other countries.

[Alfonso Cabrera] "We cannot intervene in the domestic affairs of other countries. This would represent a violation of the country's sovereignty and of the principle of self-determination. If we were to do as they ask, we would be leaving ourselves open for them to interfere in our domestic political affairs. This is something that we cannot do."

Egypt's Butrus Ghali Supports Peace Accord

PA271535 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 26 Aug 87 p 4

[Article by Carlos Garcia Urrea]

[Text] Guatemala City, 26 Aug—In brief remarks to the press in the Protocol Room of the Foreign Ministry, Dr Butrus Ghali, the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, yesterday spoke about the reasons for his visit to Guatemala and about the importance of the cultural agreement to be signed with Guatemala.

Minister Ghali said that his visit is a result of the support for the peace agreement that was signed in Guatemala in the beginning of August by the Central American presidents.

He added that Egypt has always supported the Contadora and Support Groups and their efforts. He said that Egypt followed with interest the latest meeting in Caracas in search of a peaceful solution of the region's problems.

He added that his country is very interested in bilateral relations. He said his country has had a great new experience because of the new democratic process in Egypt, explaining the country has gone from a single party system to a multiparty system, and this will lead to the improvement of the already good relations between Egypt and Guatemala.

Dr Ghali said that the relations between the two countries undoubtedly contribute to the North-South dialogue, which is a prerequisite for improving the North-South negotiations.

Replying to reporters' questions, the Egyptian minister of state referred to the economic cooperation that his country can provide to Guatemala.

He said that a cultural agreement will be signed first to strengthen the relations in this field. There will be an exchange of scholarships and more contacts with the universities and radio and television, among other sectors.

He also said he met with the president of the Congress and members of the Foreign Relations Committee, and they agreed to increase the contacts between the Guatemalan Congress and the Egyptian parliament.

Nicaragua

Reagan Meeting With Contras Criticized

PA280407 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Report by Mario Antonio Zelaya Zelaya]

[Text] Information from Los Angeles, via the UPI news agency, reads as follows: President Ronald Reagan met today with the counterrevolutionary chieftains and promised them adequate financing until a cease-fire agreement has been reached and a verifiable democratization process is underway in Nicaragua. According to the UPI dispatch, mercenary Enrique Bermudez and others attended the meeting with Reagan. The counterrevolutionary chiefs met with Reagan at a luxury hotel, the Century Plaza, 3 weeks after they met at the White House, where Reagan surprised them with his so-called cease-fire peace plan.

This meeting between President Reagan, chief of the counterrevolution, and the mercenary leaders took place in Los Angeles, and reaffirmed Reagan's intention to continue spilling Nicaraguan blood and bring mourning to the Nicaraguan people.

Iran's Vaezi Meets Ortega in Managua

LD271344 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Vaezi, director general of the Foreign Ministry Economic Affairs Directorate, yesterday met and had talks with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. In this meeting, held at the residence of the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Nicaragua, Vaezi submitted President Khamene'i's message to the Nicaraguan president. He then explained the Islamic Republic of Iran's position regarding the Iraqi-imposed war against Iran, the bloody tragedy in Mecca, and the interference of foreign powers in the Persian Gulf. He also stressed the need for cooperation between the two countries in the international affairs arena for the purpose of confronting domination-seeking powers.

Speaking at length, Ortega praised the struggle and resistance of the Iranian nation. He then expressed his sympathy with regard to the Mecca tragedy and said: Iran and Nicaragua must endeavour to isolate the U.S. imperialistic policy in the world. With regard to the Iraqi-imposed war, the Nicaraguan president added: We support a just peace. We know that Iraq initiated the war, that she uses chemical weapons, and that she has been instrumental in allowing the United States to interfere in the Persian Gulf. The United States intends to use international forums to deal a blow to Iran and to condemn it, but the strategy, political provocations [as heard], and recent proposals by Iran have had a great impact on weakening the U.S. position. We support your government's decisions for the safety and security and establishment of peace in the Persian Gulf. The Islamic Republic of Iran can count on Nicaragua's cooperation for its future projects.

Ortega added: Having relations with Iran is very important for Nicaragua. We have a great deal of respect for it.

At the end, Mr Vaezi said that the Nicaraguan's struggle against the imperialistic policy of the United States enjoys a special importance with the Iranian nation.

Guatemalan Leader on Regional Parliament
PA272016 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Guatemalan Vice President Roberto Carpio Nicolle stated last night he held a fruitful conversation with his Nicaraguan counterpart, Sergio Ramirez Mercado, and he was optimistic about the creation of a Central American parliament. Carpio Nicolle, who is touring Central America, stated before they signed the peace plan, the regional parliament's treaties were advanced, and they are now studying possible dates for concurrent elections. After he met with Dr Ramirez Mercado, Carpio Nicolle stated: We are advancing because there are no irreconcilable differences and we agree on many things. He added it will be necessary to hold a vice presidents meeting and, possibly in October, a larger meeting to include the area's foreign ministers and a delegate of each country's legislative assembly. Carpio Nicolle will continue his tour with a visit to Honduras today, where he will meet with President Jose Azcona Hoyos; later, he will continue his tour in San Salvador. [passage omitted]

The following are statements made by Guatemalan Vice President Dr Roberto Carpio Nicolle:

[Begin recording] It is very possible the meeting of the 25 [not further identified] will be held; we still do not know where it will be held, but the probable date is in October. We must recall there is a series of work commissions. For example, there is the international verification commission comprised of foreign ministers, and the national commission comprised of other officials. However, we have to determine where these commission meetings coincide so the foreign ministers are also able to participate in the forthcoming meeting of the 25. Thus, we are advancing on all fronts. The vice presidents meeting with the technical commissions would also be in preparation of the political commission of the 25. I cannot give you exact dates and places, because I have not ended my tour; until I contact Honduras and El Salvador, the dates will not be given. However, we are working on the treaty. We decided that a working session on the treaty document should be held; we assessed what the technical commission had accomplished; and we have delineated the subjects for discussion by the vice presidents in the so-called preparatory meeting; a date for this meeting will be fixed by next week.

Therefore, if we agree on what we have already discussed, and if we have advanced on some other points that have been left pending, it is more...[changes thought] I want to stress there are no differences among the countries that cannot be resolved. This is very important. We are advancing; we are agreeing on subjects for discussion at the technical commissions. At the end of my Central American tour, I will know more details about the forthcoming vice presidents meeting, but I do want to emphasize that there is goodwill throughout Central America. We have been discussing election dates; we have been debating the creation of the parliament. As you already know—because we have frequently talked about it—the treaty has 33 articles. These articles already have been discussed without any major disagreements, except sometimes regarding semantics or wording. We are presently discussing how the five countries can have simultaneous [election] dates. We still do not have a final decision, for we have to gather Honduran and Salvadoran opinions. Thus, I cannot give you details until I finish my trip, but again I want to stress that basically we are in agreement. [end recording]

The Guatemalan vice president also referred to advances made by the regional governments on the Central American presidents' agreement signed in Guatemala on 7 August:

[Begin recording] I think we are advancing a great deal because of the verification commission; first, advances were made at the meeting in El Salvador and at the meeting to form the verification commission and the executive committee. I believe we also are advancing in Nicaragua, where they are creating a [reconciliation] commission; and in Costa Rica. I think advances have been made on all fronts. I am not saying we will not have problems; there are always problems; it is not easy. However, there is an agenda that has to be met, and we are advancing. [end recording]

Borge Denies Reports of Divisions in FSLN
PA272101 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Interior Minister Commander Tomas Borge today denied that there is division among FSLN National Directorate members, as major U.S. newspapers have been reporting.

During the closing ceremony of the First Central American Conference of Women in Science, Technology, and Medicine, Commander Borge said: We have no lambs or tigers here; we have lions to defend the Sandinist people's revolution.

Commander Borge said the calumnies in the main U.S. newspapers are part of a disinformation campaign promoted by the Reagan administration to undermine the revolutionary process.

Opposition Bloc Dislikes NRC Composition
PA271311 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2128 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Managua, 26 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Today, the bloc of six opposition parties, which was all but left on the sidelines in the formation of the National Reconciliation

Commission, accused the Sandinist government of "violating the spirit of the Guatemala agreements and of fooling the people."

The commission, the creation of which was established in the Esquipulas II document, was set up on Tuesday. Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, and Popular Social Christian Party President Mauricio Diaz were appointed as principals for the government, the Church, and the opposition, respectively.

Also in the commission is Reverend Gustavo Parajon, president of the Evangelical Committee for Development Aid (CEPAD), with the status of notable.

President Daniel Ortega had to chose between two slates of opposition political parties because the parties were unable to present a joint one. Ortega picked Mauricio Diaz to represent the bloc of five political parties and Erick Ramirez, president of the Social Christian Party and representative of the bloc of six, as alternate.

Erick Ramirez said at a news conference today that the government has a three-to-one advantage in the composition of the commission. "Only Cardinal Obando y Bravo," he added, "represents the hopes of liberty and democracy of the Nicaraguan people. The rest are tied in one way or another to the government."

Ramirez defined the difference between the two opposition blocs as follows: "We (the bloc of six) are the legitimate and true opposition to the government. They (the bloc of five) are a compromised and collaborationist opposition."

The bloc of six groups the Independent Liberal Party, the Communist Party of Nicaragua, the Social Democratic Party, the Social Christian Party, the Constitutionalist Liberal Party, and the Central American Unionist Party.

The bloc of five groups the Popular Social Christian Party, the Nicaraguan Socialist Party, the Marxist-Leninist Popular Action Party, the Revolutionary Workers' Party, and the Democratic Conservative Party of Nicaragua.

The blocs defy ideological definition because there are rightist and leftist trends in each of them. Instead, they seem to have emerged in response to the current situation and are centered around very specific personalities who aspired to be members of the National Reconciliation Commission.

The bloc of six includes parties belonging to the Democratic Coordinating Board (CDN), which constitutes the most radical opposition to the Sandinist regime. They refused to participate in the 1984 elections, as did the Liberal and Communist Parties.

Ramirez repeatedly insisted that those parties were "authentic, genuine, and legitimate" opposition parties. He repeated over and over that the way the commission was set up is "a Sandinist maneuver to fool the international public."

He labelled the role of the Managua archbishop as "decisive." However, he also stressed that "in view of the Sandinists" hegemonic goal, Cardinal Obando y Bravo is in the minority and his position is very weak."

Erick Ramirez warned that the Sandinists will only demonstrate a political commitment to abide by the Guatemala agreements "when they permit the newspaper *La Prensa* and the radio station Radio Catolica to reopen, lift the state of emergency, and guarantee unrestricted freedom of the press."

To conclude, the six parties clearly stated they will not attend any meeting called by Mauricio Diaz. Diaz wants to organize a multiparty assembly to coordinate his role in the commission with all the other parties.

President Daniel Ortega said on Tuesday that "the only valid point of reference" for appointing the principal and alternate from the two blocks is the number of votes received. The bloc of five, as a whole, received 300,000 votes in the 1984 elections. The bloc of six was far behind because most of the parties refused to particpate in the electoral process.

Panama

Foreign Minister Comments on U.S. Relations

PA270018 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Statements made by Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias—date and place not given; recorded]

[Text] No matter how much Panama tries to maintain good relations with the United States—and it has done so in the past—if they do nothing, our relations will not be as we want them to be.

I would not say that relations are tense. There are areas in which we do not agree; we have some complaints with countries that have close ties. The important thing is that both countries should understand once and for all that only through mutual respect for each other's sovereignty, by understanding each country's internal problems, and through nonintervention in the internal affairs of each country can we achieve a permanent peace.

This cyclic crisis takes place in all democratic countries of the world, especially in countries going through a democratic process, such as ours. We are making progress toward a stable and just Panamanian democracy. Why can't they treat us as such? Why do they try to impose political mechanisms on us that are not in tune with Panamanian tradition? We cannot understand it and we will not accept it.

PRD Leader Provides Solutions for Crisis

PA271855 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Report by Luzmila Chong]

[Text] The consolidation of the current government, the retention of General Manuel Antonio Noriega as Army [as heard] commander, and the holding of a dialogue

without preconditions constitute the only solution to the Panamanian crisis. This was stated last night by Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, president of the ruling Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD, after a meeting with the PRD National Executive Committee. Several ministers and political leaders met with the PRD committee in a Panama City Hotel to analyze the direction that Panama's more than 2-month-long crisis has taken.

Romulo Escobar Bethancourt said that to overcome this crisis, the Eric Arturo Delvalle government must be firmly consolidated as a constitutional regime. It must also be clear in this country Gen Noriega will continue as commander and he will retire in accordance with the law regulating the military institution, the PRD president stressed.

Escobar Bethancourt added that along with the consolidation of the government and the permanence of Gen Noriega in military power, a national dialogue without preconditions must be held to find a solution to the crisis through peaceful means.

He said the participants in the meeting agreed to firmly continue confronting the sedition, and they made a more in-depth analysis of the basic reasons or causes of the sedition. According to the PRD president, the sedition wants the most reactionary U.S. sectors to evade the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. He also explained that the country's civic and political opposition wants to install a puppet government in Panama to sign a military pact with the United States to permit the presence of its troops here after the year 2000.

PDC, Molirena on Past, Future Elections

PA260202 Panama City Panavision Television in Spanish 0054 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Interview with Luis Guillermo Casco Arias, secretary general of the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement, and Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democratic Party, by moderator Carlos Arosemena on the "Third Debate" program—live or recorded in studio]

[Text] [Arosemena] Christian Democratic Party [PDC] President Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon, what problems do you feel existed with the 1984 Elections Law?

[Arias Calderon] I do not want to be like a doctor who goes to see a gravely ill patient and becomes concerned over the condition of the sheets. The Elections Law is at best the sheets of this gravely ill patient that is Panama. I would like to discuss the patient's true illness. I think we are experiencing a situation that reveals aspects of that illness. There cannot be a significant electoral process when there are human rights violations. The right to vote is part of this set of rights we call human rights. When dozens of young boys and girls were detained, beaten, mistreated, and arrested on Thursday for holding a peaceful demonstration—some of them for the first time in their lives—it is clear a human right is not being respected. One tries to project this situation to future elections and realizes something here does not fit.

We live in a climate in which five newspapers and two radio stations were closed. Here, every radio and television station is under the threat of having its frequency cancelled if the Executive Branch—without following any legal procedure—decides their new reports are inappropriate. We live in a climate in which arrest warrants have been issued for leaders of the most important trade associations, who are serious, professional, and civic-minded persons, on the absurd charge of armed insurrection. We are living in a climate in which the Executive Branch feels it can ban street demonstrations.

When I think about this climate and project it to the electoral process, I realize that if this climate does not change substantially, we will not have elections worth considering.

[Arosemena] Specifically, what problems do you feel existed with the 1984 Elections Law?

[Arias Calderon] I think the biggest problem was the way in which the law was applied and interpreted. The way it was interpreted and applied caused problems basically due to the role the military played in the 1984 elections. The military sponsored the registration of political parties with public funds. It picked a candidate in a military garrison. It forged an electoral alliance. It controlled access to the Electoral Tribunal. It held on to the ballots under the pretext that it would distribute them. It distributed them more or less to suit its purposes.

[Arosemena] However, the military has indicated it has withdrawn and turned total control over to civilian authorities.

[Arias Calderon] No Panamanian believes that. The latest Gallup poll asked Panamanians who rules Panama, and 79 percent felt General Manuel Antonio Noriega does. Panamanians were asked if they thought the military interfered too much or too little in the country's political life, and 77 percent felt it interfered too much. According to the poll, conducted in late July, Panamanians were asked if they felt the 1984 elections were honest. Almost 80 percent replied the elections were not. People were asked what they expect from the 1989 elections, and, at this point, almost 60 percent felt it is unlikely the elections will really be honest.

These are the serious problems ailing the patient, our country. The Elections Law is the sheets. Sure, sheets can be mended and can even be changed. As political doctors, we need to take care of the patient and his true illnesses.

[Arosemena] Dr Guillermo Casco Arias represents the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement [Molirena]. What problems do you feel existed with the 1984 Elections Law?

[Casco] Shortly before 1984 when the political parties were invited to participate in the discussion of a new electoral code, we attended those debates full of hope.

We thought that with our contribution we could have elections that would express the true will of the people. Later, we determined this hope did not have the expected results. I want to make a distinction between hope and hallucination. Hope is the erroneous interpretation of reality. Naturally, it leads to equally erroneous conclusions. Hallucination is replacing reality with something that does not exist.

I believe we harbored hope at that time based on an erroneous interpretation of reality, and we got erroneous results, too. However, were we now to engage in this same effort under the current conditions, this would not be hope but hallucination. We would be replacing reality with something that does not exist. [Arosemena] Regarding the hope and the reality you faced, what problems do you feel the opposition political parties had at that time?

[Casco] The opposition political parties encountered all sorts of problems. There were technical and mechanical problems. Most of all, there were political problems. Since that time—and we have been saying this for a long time—the National Guard has had special ties with certain progovernment parties, specifically with those parties to which it is tied by an umbilical cord, as has been repeated often. It also has been said the National Guard is an armed wing, whereas the political parties are its political wing. Those parties, the political wing, definitely are not and were not the opposition parties.

The opposition parties have encountered a series of problems because the balance has been weighed heavily in favor of the parties tied to the National Guard by that umbilical cord. As long as that umbilical cord is not cut, there will not be a true balance or parity between the two sectors vying for power.

[Arosemena] Dr Arias Calderon, you have charged on several occasions that in the 1984 elections there were big problems regarding vote-buying and the electoral lists. Can you give us details on the matter?

[Arias Calderon] As I said before, I think that we must always keep the patient and his illness in mind, and pay secondary attention to his sheets. Selling votes, or rather buying votes—because when someone buys the vote of poor peasant that is not the peasant's fault; it is the fault of the politician who buys that vote—vote-buying and puncturing identity cards—which was a new practice used in the past elections [to prevent people from voting]—happened because of the tolerance and very often the protection of local military and civilian authorities. The Electoral Tribunal did not make an effort to prevent this practice. The local officers in the various areas did not make any effort to prevent it either.

I know of a case in the central provinces. A PDC representative approached an officer in charge of the area to report incidents of open vote-buying. The officer smiled at him and said: If I had known about it, I would have asked for 40 balboas.

[Arosemena] Excuse me, does this mean that the opposition political parties did not engage in vote-buying?

[Arias Calderon] I am convinced of that. All our struggle and the mystique of our people were the struggle and mystique of the people who want democracy. Moreover, in order to engage in these practices, the complicity and tolerance of military and civilian authorities were necessary.

[Arosemena] Millions of balboas were invested in the elections. As you say, people wanted to have democracy. However, they did not buy the votes of people...[does not finish sentence].

[Arias Calderon] When you say that millions were invested, that is true. The government spent many millions. I want to remind you that just through the special accounts—the well-known case involving the Social Security Institute's special accounts—approximately 500,000 balboas were spent in the final weeks before the elections—and just from that source. Therefore, as you suggested, the government spent millions to try to buy the votes of Panamanians. Since it was unsuccessful, it had to resort to the post-election fraud. I repeat, all of this happened under the protection and tolerance of the military and civilian authorities, who were basically responsible for the fraud of 1984.

[Arosemena] How much did the electoral campaign cost the opposition parties? How much did the mass media you used in the elections cost?

[Arias Calderon] The use of the media makes me smile a little. At the end of the elections we did not have access to more than 15 percent of the mass media. There were television stations that did not let us purchase a single advertisement. Others severely limited the advertising space we could purchase. Others imposed absurd regulations on the time we could use for our propaganda. None of the television stations gave us the attention we deserved in their newscasts. In fact, some of these stations did not even mention us. The same thing happened with the radio stations.

Therefore, another aspect of the 1984 election fraud was that under the protection of military and civilian authorities the news media did not play fairly or calmly. Instead, all acted in all kinds of ways to favor one of the two sides.

In sum, whether in open vote-buying or in the misuse of the mass media, a flagrant injustice was committed. The fundamental source of this situation was the tolerance of and planning by military and civilian authorities. [Arosemena] What is Molirena's position on the vote buying and the problems with the voters' lists? Can you also discuss the use of the media in the 1984 campaign?

[Casco] When I earlier mentioned the matter of having hopes and of then finding out that reality did not support such hopes, we found that the act of voting is not the only means by which an election becomes corrupt and does not end as one hoped. The preparations for the elections also set the stage for this. That is what happened. Votes were openly sold and bought with the

complicity of officials. There was a totally irregular voting process when the Electoral Tribunal took over some functions which did not fall under its province and when the Electoral Tribunal's headquarters was occupied by the Defense Forces and virtually turned into a headquarters where one had difficulty entering to complete anyone's objective. The opposition parties were not only unable to carry out any proselytizing activity and obtain any information during the election itself, but after the election the validation of the results was made very difficult. The cost was very great not only in terms of money but also in what was not achieved. The democracy that we all sought was not achieved.

[Arosemena] Dr Arias Calderon, what is the PDC position on the various forms of candidacies, such as the independent candidates and the district, provincial, or national candidates? How should they be chosen?

[Arias Calderon] I think the first thing that should be clear is that no candidate should be chosen by the Defense Forces, proclaimed in a garrison, or be vetoed by the Defense Forces. The candidates should emerge from the authentic will of the political parties, which are the organizations through which the citizens' desire to participate in political life is expressed in a national and modern way.

It is also important that we free ourselves of the illusion that there is a residency requirement for the candidates. There has been so much cheating by progovernment candidates regarding the residency requirement that this has become a farce. I think the voters should be free to choose. If a candidate lives and works in an electoral district, let him run there to achieve the voters' support. However, if another candidate is nominated by a party and he is not a resident and does not work in that electoral district, the voter should choose between those candidates. The voter should be free to choose in order to clean up the matter of the nominations because much cheating has been committed with the residency requirement.

I also think we should consider the possibility of having some nationwide legislative candidacies rather than just district candidacies in order to obtain participation in the Assembly of figures who do not have district roots or support and instead have a national view and support. These are some of the ideas that we consider valid for changes in the sheets, because the sheet of the Electoral Law needs some mending and perhaps even replacement with a cleaner one. Naturally, we must always remember that the illness is not in the sheet.

[Arosemena] Does Molirena think that a candidate can run as an independent? Also give us your opinion on district, provincial, and national candidates.

[Casco] The issue of independent, district, provincial, or national candidacies is merely secondary rather than essential if we bear in mind that we do not want to have hallucinations about the next elections if and when they are held. In order to not have such hallucinations we cannot forget the present reality. We cannot ignore that we have not resolved more pressing and noticeable problems, which are not about to be resolved because there are no indications talks will be held for such an objective. There is no sign from the places where the seat of power is located regarding the holding of a dialogue to resolve the grave problems we are experiencing such as legal terrorism, the silencing of the written and spoken communications media, and the persecution of political leaders opposed to the attitudes of the officials.

[Arosemena] You say that there is no dialogue, but the president of the Republic has called both the government and the opposition political parties to a dialogue. The Electoral Tribunal has also called all the parties to a meeting soon about the electoral law.

[Casco] Precisely so that we will not have a hallucination, so that we will not even harbor illusions, and so that we will interpret the concrete reality. Those who must issue the call to dialogue are those sectors which really hold power. Individuals who do not have that capacity cannot sit down to hold a dialogue. Those who have that capacity are the ones who have the power to truly approve the resolution of the national problems. [Arosemena] As leaders of opposition political parties, would you be willing to participate in that dialogue?

[Casco] To the extent that the sectors with power—the sectors that really have the means and power to make decisions—issue the invitation to a dialogue and sit down to talk with the leaders of the Civic Crusade and the political parties, we can achieve a dialogue acceptable to everyone.

[Arias Calderon] I think the first thing that must be asked regarding the dialogue is whether there is really a desire for it on the part of those who actually use the dialogue for rhetorical purposes. When the individual who issues the invitation to a dialogue keeps five newspapers and two radio stations closed and threatens all the audiovisual communications media; when the individual who issues the invitation to a dialogue issues arbitrary arrest warrants with absurd charges against the leaders of a peaceful protest movement; when the individual who issues the invitation to a dialogue arrests on Thursday dozens of young men and women who then are beaten and mistreated; when those who say they issue invitations to a dialogue prohibit the constitutional right to demonstrate in the streets, a right established in the Constitution, in the tenets of Panamanian jurisprudence, and in the political history of all the democratic countries; when those who say they issue invitations to a dialogue behave in this way, one must honestly say: There is no desire for a dialogue; what exists is a desire to obtain publicity and propaganda. Human rights cannot be used as blackmail to force anyone to hold a dialogue. Let human rights be respected, then let the invitations be issued, and we will see the responses.

[Arosemena] Dr Arias Calderon, we seem to have digressed from the topic of the program; let us return to

it. What would your position be on the system of quotients [cocientes], half-quotients, and residuals for the elections in 1989?

[Arias Calderon] We are entering into the most technical aspects of the sheets, whether the sheets have embroidery on this side or the other. However, the patient is bedridden and in critical condition. The patient represents us as a nation. The doctor who arrives at the foot of the bed of a man with cancer and starts talking about the embroidery on the sheet will be replaced by the patient with another doctor. Let us return to the problem of the sickness of the Panamanian people. The sickness is clearly the violation of human rights and the repeated intervention of the military forces in matters beyond their professional duties. As long as we do not deal with that, then the problem of the quotient or the half-quotient is like a little patch on the dirty sheet covering the patient. No, I will not enter into such a discussion at this point.

[Arosemena] Casco, what is your opinion on the system of quotients, half-quotients, and residuals for the next elections?

[Casco] I repeat that this is a highly technical matter. The way to avoid hallucination and to return to reality and putting your feet on the ground...[changes thought] It does not matter if the votes are counted with an abacus, with beads, with a calculator, or with fingers. The essential thing is the count be done by those who will guarantee that the vote count is carried out honestly. There must be a superstructure ensuring an egalitarian administration of justice, in which the attorney general's office will not carry out legal terrorism—as is the case now—and in which the Electoral Tribunal will give us guarantees in good faith that the count will be carried out honestly. The quotients and the half-quotients do not matter. Let us not turn to hallucination or delusions; let us return to reality. We must first achieve the principles of democracy, and then we must have suffrage to use the tools that will consolidate such a democracy. [Arosemena] From your arguments, can we infer that the Electoral Tribunal must be completely reorganized?

[Casco] There definitely must be a complete reorganization of the Electoral Tribunal.

[Arosemena] Dr Arias Calderon, you also...

[Arias Calderon, interrupting] Yes, I would also like to address this point; I think you were also going to ask me about it. I do not know if we realize what it means when former Electoral Tribunal President Cesar Quintero—who experienced from inside the tribunal what occurred in 1984—clearly and explicitly asserts that there was fraud. I do not know why the other tribunal magistrates did not immediately submit their resignations. I do not know why the military and civilian authorities who discuss rectifications did not immediately announce to the nation that they had received those resignations.

[Arosemena] Nevertheless, former President Nicolas Ardito Barletta has said that the vote records exist, that they can be counted, and he reiterates that there was no fraud in the past elections.

[Arias Calderon] Do you know what it means when Dr Ardito Barletta asked on television for a vote recount? This is the fullest admission we can expect from a man who, by implication, benefited from the fraud. One cannot ask a man to destroy himself by admitting his mistakes. I publicly embraced Dr Ardito Barletta after that statement, because I saw in it an indirect acknowledgment by a man who is telling the country that he also has doubts. If this were not so, he would not have raised the vote recount issue.

[Arosemena] Nevertheless, the government parties and the UNADE [National Democratic Union] parties say there was no electoral fraud in the last elections.

[Arias Calderon] Permit me to refer to a page in the newspaper *Critica* regarding Gen Noriega's speech in Fort Cimarron. He said the following regarding the elections: I publicly state that in 1989 there cannot be a president who is not elected by the people's vote. What does this mean in good Spanish for those of us who heard him and for the person who said it? It means a president emerged as a result of the 1984 elections who did not have the people's vote, and that this is why Noriega must try to convince the Panamanians that this will not be repeated in 1989.

[Arosemena] Excuse me, Dr Arias Calderon, why can we not see this from a more positive viewpoint? If he says there should be a democratic transition in the country, and since elections were held in 1984, does this not means that he has made a commitment to the country to have more honest elections than those in 1984?

[Arias Calderon] He was the one who committed the 1984 fraud, and his behavior since then, after removing two presidents—one in 1984 and another in 1985—has not changed enough for us to believe his promise. This is especially true because in that same speech, he gave orders to the country's attorney general, something unprecedented in our nation's history. A Defense Forces commander publicly told an attorney general who should be taken to trial and who should be in jail. Therefore, when someone promises to respect the people's will and, at the same time, issues orders to the country's attorney general, I think Panamanians, as shown by the Gallup international poll, are well justified in not believing that promise. [Arosemena] You speak of electoral fraud, but do the opposition parties have proof that there was electoral fraud in 1984?

[Casco] The results demonstrate it; what is happening now demonstrates it. If there had been nothing irregular; if what happened during the elections had not happened; if two people had not been killed on 6 May when the civic organizations—which, at that time, had yet to be organized under the Civic Crusade—challenged the election results; and if two people—one of them, a Molirena

member—had not been killed by a paramilitary group led by the late Silverio Brown, then none of these charges of electoral fraud would have emerged. Obviously, I do not have a voucher rendering a complete accounting of the fraud, but there was an irregularity, and this has led to the disturbances we have had for more than 70 days in the country and whose end is not in sight. On the contrary, as time passes, the people's agitation is increasing. As a result, what happened? Were there free elections? Were there elections allowing Panamanians to say we have strong institutions? I do not think so.

[Arosemena] You say you do not have actual proof that there was electoral fraud. Could all this not be just the result of envy on the part of the opposition parties, whose presidential candidate was unable to win?

[Casco] There is proof that there was electoral fraud. All I just mentioned is proof of this. What we do not have is a voucher saying: I hereby certify that there was fraud in this instance. We have proof there was fraud. However, we do not have a tribunal to bring this evidence of fraud to, because the one that exists will not admit such evidence. There must be a distinction here. If we are now discussing possible electoral code or electoral law changes, we must bear in mind we will do so under some guarantees that heretofore have been ignored. We want a tribunal to which we can go with our proof and say: Here are the results. We not only want an electoral body but a civic body to observe the elections, something similar to what was done during the Philippine elections. We want guarantees not only from the Electoral Tribunal, which is a government body, but also from a civic body, and from international observers who will come and stay in the country before, during, and after the vote to ensure that we will have free and honest elections.

[Arosemena] Before our time is over, I want to ask the two opposition party representatives what type of electoral guarantees would be satisfactory to their parties.

[Arias Calderon] The first and foremost guarantee would be a professional Defense Forces with new leadership which, through its behavior, upholds the Constitution, and one which guarantees respect for the Panamanian people's desire to achieve a true democracy. That is the fundamental guarantee. Without this guarantee, nothing else is of real value. Along with this essential guarantee, there must be the guarantee of three independent Electoral Tribunal magistrates who, with real and effective autonomy, can supervise an electoral process organized by them. In addition to such an independent tribunal, we would need a civic and national body that can give credibility to the electoral process. In addition to that civic body to independently supervise the elections, we would need teams of international observers chosen by mutual consent, in order for the international community to guarantee that our country at last achieves peaceful democratization. In conclusion, I would like to read the May 1984 opinion of the Panamanian bishops regarding the last elections. They said the following: The recently concluded elections created a great disillusionment, especially among the young people who had expected something else. There has been a serious setback in the path to democratization and a deterioration of our nation's international image.

[Arosemena] Excuse me, Dr Arias Calderon, but we unfortunately have run out of time. We would also like to know Molirena's opinion about the guarantees it finds satisfactory.

[Casco] I basically endorse what Dr Arias Calderon has said. Reiterating the comparison about not wanting a delusion or an hallucination, I think that if we get the military forces to remove themselves from political activity and if we break the umbilical cord sustaining the predominance of some political sectors and a behavior crushing all hopes for democracy, only then will we as politicians manage to build a new country with strong institutions, one that will be a guarantee for our children and future generations.

Argentina

Poll Forecasts Radicals Election Win

PY261917 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0316 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] A pre-electoral survey sampled in the entire country, has produced a projection according to which the ruling Radical Civic Union [UCR] will obtain an average of 40.6 percent of the total votes, with 35.6 percent going to the Justicialist Party [PJ], 4.5 percent for the Democratic Centrist Union [UCD], [words indistinct] for the Intransigent Party [PI] and 3.6 percent for local provincial movements.

According to the survey, UCR candidates will win the governorship in 12 provinces, while PJ candidates will win in 7 provinces.

The results of the poll, conducted by the Nudelman Bass Company, was published in last night's issue of the magazine *Somos*. The questions are focussed on two areas: the electoral preferences if the election were to be held today, and company's projection for 6 September.

In Buenos Aires Province, the UCR and the PF are today tied for first place with 31 percent each, but the projection gives 41 percent for the UCR and 38 percent for the PJ. The UCD would win 6 percent of the votes.

In the Federal Capital, Buenos Aires, the UCR today has an advantage of 34 percent for [word indistinct] percent for the PJ. The projection gives 39 percent for the UCR, 25 percent for the PJ, and 15 percent for the UCD.

In Catamarca Province, where the incumbent is from the PJ, the UCR today leads by 42 percent to 35 percent for the PJ. The projection gives 52 percent for the UCR and 42 percent for the PJ.

In Cordoba Province, where the incumbent is from the UCR, the UCR would win the election. The Liberal Autonomous Pact would win in Corrientes Province.

In Chaco Province, 44 percent of the people surveyed today prefer the UCR while 35 percent prefer the PJ. The firm's projection gives 45 percent for the UCR and 40 percent for the PJ.

In Chubut Province, the incumbent is from the UCR but the PF is today holding the edge by 38 percent against 29 percent for the UCR. The firm's projection gives 45 percent for the PJ and 36 percent for the UCR.

In Entre Rios Province, the PJ is today leading by [word indistinct] to 27 percent for the UCR, but the firm's projection shows they are tied with 45 percent each.

In the provinces of Formosa, Jujuy and La Rioja the PJ is projected to win and retain the governorships. In Neuquen Province, the Neuquen Popular Movement led by Felipe Sapag should win the governorship.

In Salta Province, where the incumbent is from the PJ, the PJ would retain the governorship, but in San Luis Province the PF is divided and the UCR today leads with 36 percent of the votes, against 28 percent for the PJ, and 19 percent for the Renewal Peronism headed by Oraldo Britos. The firm's projection shows similar results.

In the provinces of Santa Cruz and Santa Fe the PF is projected to retain the governorships. However, the PJ will lose the governorship in Santiago del Estero where the UCR would carry 57 percent of the votes and the PJ 37 percent.

In Tucuman Province, the PJ would also lose the governorship to the UCR because the UCR is leading by 52 percent against 30 percent for the PJ. The firm's projection gives 55 percent to the UCR and 30 percent to the PJ.

Bolivia

Cariaga on Negotiations With Brazil

PY261923 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Excerpts] The finance minister does not think the negotiations with Brazil can be considered a failure. Juan Cariaga has indicated that the negotiations the [Bolivian] Central Bank president is conducting in Brazil are satisfactory. Cariaga said the president has returned for consultations about 1 of the 76 points currently being discused.

When reporters questioned Cariaga about reports published in Brazil indicating that the negotiations had failed, he said:

[Begin recording] No, in no way. Of the 76 points being discussed, 75 have been agreed upon. The Central Bank president has returned to Bolivia for consultations on this one point. But, in no way can we term the negotiations a failure. [passage omitted] [end recording]

The finance minister also stated that the ministry's under secretaries will

Brazil

USSR's Shevardnadze Plans 4-Day Visit

PY252329 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre today reported that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will arrive in Brazil on 27 September for a 4-day visit to the country. Sodre added that Shevardnadze will meet with President Jose Sarney and probably with Constituent Assembly President Ulysses Guimaraes.

Sodre also reported that peace, nuclear disarmament, and the resumption of bilateral trade will be the main subjects of discussions with the Soviet foreign minister. meet on 27 August to discuss the problem of gas sales to Argentina.

Colombia

UP Leader Aldana Shot Dead in Planadas

PA252340 Paris AFP in Spanish 1544 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Text] Bogota, 25 Aug (AFP)—The leader of the communist Patriotic Union (UP), Demetrio Aldana, was killed today by two hired assassins who machine-gunned him to death in a street in Planadas, in the southeastern part of the country, according to police reports.

With the killing of Aldana, in the 536 days the group has been in existence, the number of UP leaders and members killed now numbers 453. The UP was organized after peace agreements were signed with the communist FARC guerrillas.

On 14 and 16 August, respectively, communist leaders Pedro Luis Valencia, a senator, and Alvaro Garces, mayor of Sabana de Torres municipality, were also killed.

The police reported that almost at the same time, union leader Luis Felipe Velez was killed in the northeastern city of Medellin, 250 km from Bogota. Velez had underscored the right to life during a demonstration last week.

According to the report, Velez was shot four times—once in the head—as he was leaving his home to go to his office at the presidency of the teachers association in Antioquia.

The police have no leads in the killings of Aldana and Velez.

Paraguay

Opposition Leader Travels to Sweden

PY261926 Asuncion EL PUEBLO in Spanish 26 Aug 87 p 10

[Excerpt] Domingo Laino, president of the PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party] has travelled to Stockholm, Sweden, at the invitation of the Swedish Liberal Party. On the first leg of his tour, which started on 19 August, he was scheduled to meet with Buenos Aires PLRA committee members and some Argentine politicians.

He was also scheduled to stop for a few hours in Spain and Denmark to talk with fellow countrymen and other politicians, who were notified of his arrival. He will finally fly to Stockholm where he will stay for several days fulfilling a very busy agenda. [passage omitted]

Peru

Romero Resigns Over Nationalization

PA261630 Paris AFP in Spanish 1528 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Lima, 26 Aug (AFP)—Government sources today confirmed that Manuel Romero Caro, Peruvian minister of industry, commerce, tourism, and integration, resigned over differences with the presidential draft bill to nationalize private banking.

The resignation, made after the Social Democratic [as published] President Alan Garcia announced his decision on 28 July, will become official after the new Prime Minister Senator Guillermo Larco Cox appears together with his cabinet before the National Congress tomorrow to present his work plans, as the Constitution demands.

According to sources, Garcia had asked Romero, an independent, to continue in the cabinet post until the new cabinet met before the parliament. It is not known who will be appointed to succeed Romero.

The resignation was also confirmed by an indiscretion of Agriculture and Nutrition Minister Remigio Morales Bermudez, who mentioned this to the local press yesterday while attending an extraordinary meeting of the cabinet at the government palace. Romero did not take part in this meeting.

It was learned that the outgoing minister felt that the expropriation of banks, and loan and insurance companies does away with the conciliation process of the past few years that was undertaken with private businesses to achieve greater productive investments to strengthen the economy.

Uruguay

Relations With PRC Reported 'Imminent'

PY262133 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 20 Aug 87 p 1

[Text] Concepcion del Uruguay, Argentina—A high-ranking government source yesterday told *El Dia* that a decision by the Executive Branch is imminent regarding the establishment of relations with the PRC.

The source, who asked not be identified, stated that since the establishment of the current democratic government, the subject has been under study, and that a decision will be made "in a matter of days."

He said the decision will be officially announced by the end of September. Asked about the matter, Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias said it is a possibility, and the decision is under study by the Executive Branch.